

the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the Senate vote on cloture as under the previous order.

This vote—I know that Members are probably not all here right now, so we will keep it open for a little while. I urge Members to get here soon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 250, Eunice C. Lee, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Richard Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Martin Heinrich, Richard Blumenthal, Margaret Hassan, Raphael Warnock, Kirsten Gillibrand, Jacky Rosen, Patrick Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Eunice C. Lee, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 308 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Braun	Collins
Blackburn	Burr	Cornyn
Blunt	Capito	Cotton
Boozman	Cassidy	Cramer

Crapo	Lankford	Sasse
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Marshall	Shelby
Fischer	McConnell	Sullivan
Grassley	Moran	Thune
Hagerty	Murkowski	Tillis
Hawley	Paul	Toomey
Hoeven	Portman	Tuberville
Hyde-Smith	Risch	Wicker
Inhofe	Romney	Young
Johnson	Rounds	
Kennedy	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—1

Graham

(Mr. PADILLA assumed the chair.)

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eunice C. Lee, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now we have worked long, hard, and collaboratively to finish this important bipartisan bill.

The Senate has considered 22 amendments during this process, and we have been willing to consider many more. In fact, we have been trying to vote on amendments all day but have encountered numerous objections from the other side.

However, we very much want to finish this important bill, so we will reconvene Saturday at noon to vote on cloture, and then we will follow the regular order to finish the bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I rise in support of the majority leader's comments, and I want to commend my colleagues for the work we have done together in a bipartisan fashion over the last 4 days, considering and clearing 22 amendments as a body together in the Senate.

And while we were unable to agree on additional amendments today, I do also look forward to us reconvening together on Saturday and proceeding under regular order to finish what will be a historic piece of legislation both in its bipartisan nature and in the impact it will have on our country.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 143, 144, 145, and 272; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years; Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment); and Kathleen S. Miller, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (New Position), en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is alarming to know that voter suppression, which we have worked for decades to overcome, is not a ghost from our past. Suppression efforts are resurfacing—and surging—in State legislatures across the country. Voter roll purging, out-of-the-way polling stations, and needless barriers to accessing the ballot box are underway and under consideration in jurisdictions across the country. It cannot stand.

Under the guise of election integrity, even in the wake of the most secure election in our Nation's history, proponents of these suppressive movements make no effort to hide their targets: African Americans, Latino Americans, college students, low-income voters, the list goes on.

Those who do not feel compelled to push against these voter suppression need a lesson in history. Thankfully, a July 27 column in the Washington Post by Norman Lear offers just that insight. Penned on the occasion of his 99th birthday, this decorated American war hero, one of our Nation's Greatest Generation, recalls the pain and betrayal felt by African-American war heroes who fought for democracy abroad, only to be excluded from it at home. He reminds us that it took decades of relentless activism to give millions of minority American voters and others a real voice by finally giving them a vote.

And most importantly, he urges all Americans to fight now to protect the right to vote, the very right that gives democracy its name. This is a call to action. Voting suppression cannot stand. From the For the People Act to my own bipartisan John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, named for another icon of the voting movement, this Senate has a real opportunity to stand for democracy. I will work in good faith with any member of the Senate, regardless of party, to find a path to passing and enacting that important bill bearing John Lewis's name. Efforts to restore the Voting Rights Act have always been bipartisan. There is no reason it shouldn't be bipartisan again now.

To echo Norman's words, the right to vote isn't about party or even politics. It is about our system of self-government and the notion that a government of, by, and for the people is worth protecting in a world where authoritarianism and tyranny are still forces we are reckoning with. I ask unanimous consent that Norman Lear's opinion piece, titled "Norman Lear: As I begin my 100th year, I'm baffled that voting rights are still under attack," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 27, 2021]

AS I BEGIN MY 100TH YEAR, I'M BAFFLED THAT VOTING RIGHTS ARE STILL UNDER ATTACK

(By Norman Lear)

I woke up today at the start of my 100th year as a citizen of this beautiful, bewildering country. I am proud of the progress we've made in my first 99 years, and it breaks my heart to see it undermined by politicians more committed to their own power than the principles that should bind us together. Frankly, I am baffled and disturbed that 21st-century Americans must still struggle to protect their right to vote.

I am a patriot, and I will not surrender that word to those who play to our worst impulses rather than our highest ideals. When the United States entered World War II, I dropped out of college to fight fascism. I flew 52 missions with a crew in a B-17, dropping bombs 35 times. Unlike so many others, I returned from that war safely, to another 70-plus years of life, love, family, failure and triumph.

It's very likely that I owe my ass and all those decades of human experience to that Black and Brown squadron of Red Tail P-51

fighter pilots known as the Tuskegee airmen. When we saw their red tails coming to escort us, we all felt a bit safer.

Yet when these courageous men returned to the United States, they returned to racism, segregation and discrimination. Their heroism did not shield them from the indignities and violence of Jim Crow. I can only imagine the depth of the betrayal the airmen must have felt, but it did not prevent many of them from accomplishing great things.

I think often of the congresswoman Barbara Jordan. She will always be remembered for declaring during President Richard M. Nixon's impeachment hearings, "My faith in the Constitution is whole; it is complete; it is total." Even now, it gives me chills to think of her saying that, as a Black woman, in the face of her own experiences of prejudice and her full knowledge of our history.

I believe Jordan's faith in the Constitution, like my continued faith in our country, was grounded in the faith, love and hope of all the people who have struggled for the past 230 years—including millions who rallied for racial justice this past year—to make the Constitution's promises real for all of us.

After we defeated fascism overseas, it took 20 more years to pass the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act at home. Now, headlines seem drawn from the past: States target Black voters with voter-suppression bills. Federal voting-rights laws blocked in the Senate by a filibuster. Racial and religious nationalism, nativism and authoritarianism are seemingly on the rise everywhere. It is deeply discouraging to this member of what has been called "the Greatest Generation."

But do you know who else was part of the Greatest Generation? Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer and Thurgood Marshall. And think of the greatness demonstrated by generations that followed us: Jordan, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis, and millions of not-famous people who risked everything to claim the right to vote.

To legislators getting between people and the ballot box, and to senators who are standing in the dishonorable tradition of those who filibustered civil rights legislation, I say this: You may pass some unjust laws. You may win elections by preventing or discouraging people from voting.

But you will not in the end defeat the democratic spirit, the spirit that animated the Tuskegee airmen to whom I owe my life, the spirit that powers millions of Americans who give of themselves to defend voting rights, protect our environment, preserve peaceful pluralism, defeat discrimination, and expand educational and economic opportunity.

The right to vote is foundational to addressing all these issues. It is at the heart of everything I have fought for in war and in peacetime.

To senators who are willing to sacrifice the right to vote to some outdated notion of bipartisanship and Senate tradition, I almost do not know what to say. On the scale of justice, this is not even a close call. Do what's right.

Protecting voting rights should not be today's struggle. But it is. And that means it is our struggle, yours and mine, for as long as we have breath and strength.

SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after decades of civil war, famine, and political instability, after millions were killed and millions more became refugees, many hoped that independence and a

peace agreement in South Sudan would usher in a period of stability and progress.

Some South Sudanese refugees who had resettled in the United States returned to South Sudan to aid in rebuilding. Unfortunately, peace was fleeting and the past decade of independence has been marred by continued violent ethnic conflict, widespread hunger, and ongoing disputes between rival politicians that have cared more about their own ambitions than the South Sudanese people. Despite several power sharing agreements, promises of unity and reconciliation, and a goal to seat a full Parliament in 2020, the rivalry between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar has stoked tensions between the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups and neglected public infrastructure and basic services. On August 2, almost a year past the promised deadline, an incomplete Parliament was sworn into office, with 62 members absent due to disagreements over the power-sharing arrangement.

The people of South Sudan cannot wait another decade for progress. They cannot wait for politicians to argue over control while their children go hungry, while they sink deeper into poverty, while they worry that the next outbreak of violent conflict might send them fleeing for their lives. Recently, the People's Coalition for Civil Action launched an effort to mobilize all South Sudanese people, whether living within the country or abroad, and demand political change. In a declaration, they said they "have had enough of war, enough of corruption, enough of insecurity, enough of economic hardships, enough of public neglect and leadership failure." They admonished the administration of President Salva Kiir, which has completely failed to fulfill its most basic responsibilities to provide security and stability for its citizens.

Just days later, the South Sudanese National Security Service—NSS—arrested two of the leaders of the movement, Augustino Ting Mayai and a former State Governor, Kuel Aguer Kuel, for signing the declaration. The NSS shut down the Sudd Institute, a think tank involved in the creation of the People's Coalition for Civil Action, and issued arrest warrants for Rajab Mohandis and Abraham Awolich, two other signatories of the declaration, who have gone into hiding. This suppression of dissent is not new in South Sudan. Weak and paranoid new leaders often resort to projecting strength by arresting civil society leaders, journalists, and political rivals, and over the years, this has become President Kiir's trademark. This most recent transparent attempt to silence his own citizens for nothing more than demanding that he keep his promises and do his duty has not gone unnoticed by the rest of the world.

President Kiir may not know that Abraham Awolich was one of the now-famous Lost Boys, who as a child survived the civil war that killed most of